

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/687,542

Examiner

Edward F. Landrum

Applicant(s)

PHILLIPS ET AL.

Art Unit

3724

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to applicant's remarks filed 10/18/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,2,7,9-11,17 and 19.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1, 2, 7, 9-11, 17, and 19 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1 and 11 are allowable for defining a blade clamp assembly for holding a rotary blade on an arbor. The blade clamp assembly includes a body, a blade washer engaging the blade to hold the blade to the arbor, and a clamp assembly being threaded into the arbor to clamp the blade washer against the blade. The clamp assembly includes a planetary gear system for transmitting torque applied to the clamp to the blade washer. The planetary gear system multiplies the torque transmitted to the blade washer so the torque transmitted to the blade washer is greater than the torque applied to the clamp assembly. The body includes a keyed bottom surface and the blade washer comprises a keyed upper surface for engaging the keyed bottom surface of the body.

Barth et al (U.S Patent No. 4,955,744), hereinafter Barth, discloses a blade clamp assembly substantially as claimed, including: a motor; an arbor (10) rotated by the motor for supporting a rotary blade (15); and a blade clamp assembly including a blade washer (32), a planetary gear system (31, 37, 38), a body (39); a threaded bolt (13), a carrier (17), a cap (22), and a ring gear (teeth 40). The clamp assembly has a rotational axis. Barth fails to teach the body including a keyed bottom surface and the blade washer comprising a keyed upper surface for engaging the keyed bottom surface of the body.

The blade washer (32) of Barth and the body (39) of Barth are integrally formed. It would be improper hindsight to separate the two parts and form keyed surfaces on adjacent sides. It is old and well known to provide keyed surfaces between a washer and a clamping structure like a bolt, but the keyed surfaces generally have similar surface areas and are used to permanently lock the bolt in place (a lock washer per se). The washer and body of Barth have dissimilar shapes and the point of the clamping system is to easily clamp and unclamp a blade from an arbor. Because of this there is no reason to modify the device of Barth to incorporate these teachings.

2. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edward F. Landrum whose telephone number is 571-272-5567. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Boyer Ashley can be reached on 571-272-4502. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

EFL

10/26/2007



BOYER D. ASHLEY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER